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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,348	04/29/2004	David D. Needelman	03-0963	3347
44702	7590	06/21/2006	EXAMINER	
OSTRAGER CHONG FLAHERTY & BROITMAN PC 250 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 825 NEW YORK, NY 10177				BEAULIEU, YONEL
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3661				

DATE MAILED: 06/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/709,348	NEEDELMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yonel Beaulieu	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/14/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

First of all, the §112/2 rejection noted in the last Office action has been withdrawn.

Regarding Applicant's arguments that Bender (U.S. '574) not teaching "determining a star in the stayout zone," the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Bender's teaching is not different as argued. Bender's figs. 2 and 3 make plain that star is determined [by item 12] and not necessarily, as argued, to "block out" such a zone and radiation therefrom. Detection of objects, star is provided via boresight 42. Furthermore, Bender does teach star exclusion as argued. Such an exclusion, as previously addressed, is based upon separation (also consider Bender's col. 6, lines 32 – 39 at least).

Applicant further argues that Bender would not render the subject matter of the present application obvious. It is still the Examiner's position the §103(a) rejection is still warranted. Obviousness may be based upon what is suggested to the person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

For at least the above reasons, it is believed the rejection is proper. The rejection is therefore maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 – 7, 9, 10, 15 – 21, 23, 24, 29 – 32, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bender et al. (US 5,412,574).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24, 29, and 30, Bender teaches a method of determining a vehicle attitude or angular velocity, comprising: calculating (using algorithm in processor 14), on-board the vehicle (the vehicle being spacecraft 100; col. 7, lines 16 – 20 at least), a stayout zone associated with a bright object, or a plurality of objects and determining a star in the stayout zone (see figs. 3a and 3b; col. 5, lines 38 – 63 at least); and determining a vehicle inertial attitude or angular velocity, based on star measurements of sensed or tracked stars (tracked by item 12; col. 4, lines 25 – 41 at least), excluding (separating) the star within the stayout zone (col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 33); Bender further teaches listing the stars inside the zone (based on star ID) and flagging a star catalog (22; see fig. 2; col. 4, lines 1 – 35 at least). Bender further teaches controlling the vehicle attitude in response to the vehicle inertial attitude or velocity (to place item 100 in orbit inherently requires a

minimum angular orbital velocity; note col. 5, lines 5 – 32 at least). Bender further teaches orientation determination of the star trackers (col. 3, lines 57 – 68; col. 5, lines 55 – 63; and col. 6, lines 18 – 22 at least). Moreover, Bender teaches the exclusion of a star being based upon the properties of the star or the object (Bender teaches which star to detect and determines which to track; col. 4, lines 10 – 16 at least).

Regarding claims 2 - 4, 16 – 18, 31, 32, and 34, Bender's teaching further comprises a circular stayout zone (considering orbital path of spacecraft 100 as illustrated in fig. 1a; col. 3, lines 13 – 18 at least) and a non-circular stayout zone (col. 8, lines 23 – 39 at least).

Regarding claims 5, 6, 19, 20, and 14, Bender's exclusion is performed for a fixed and non-fixed period of time (col. 8, lines 40 – 54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 11 – 14, 22, 25 – 28, 33, and 36 – 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bender et al. (US 5,412,574).

As discussed above, Bender teaches all of the limitations except for the property being brightness having a first and a second magnitude and calculating one circular rectangular, different shape, stayout zone.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention a star is a known self-luminous, self-containing mass of gas representing twinkling points of light that can be seen at nights with different intensity (magnitude) and that Bender teaches a method/system that performs equally well in order to track a star and determine a vehicle attitude.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will

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the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yonel Beaulieu whose telephone number is (571) 272-6955. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W 9-3; F 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas BLACK can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Yonel Beaulieu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661